Blue Grass CCC INCLUDIO A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

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Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

www.pmacwa.army.mil









The fifth meeting of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board showed considerable interaction among board members, stakeholders, the workforce, the government and its systems contractor. CDCAB co-chair, Madison County Judge-Executive Kent Clark, said that he is pleased at the way everyone is working together. (See page 7 for a key to photo identification on the cover.) With the sixth meeting coming up May 24, the participants are gearing up for significant discussions on issues and providing ideas and input to the decision-makers.

Kent

Clark

Photos by Diane Osbourne

New Key People in Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

Many people in the community know Michael Bryant as the face of Madison County's Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). After seven years as public information officer, Bryant has met and talked with hundreds at the Madison County Fair, the Berea

Spoonbread Festival and many other locations.

Bryant probably couldn't count the number of times he has asked this question at community events: "Do you know your zone?" He has given many talks to civic clubs and organizations over the years. He has delivered thousands of CSEPP calendars.

Now there will be a new face of CSEPP in the community. Stephanie Parrett, a native of Annville in Jackson County, has been named the new CSEPP public information officer. Bryant has been named director of CSEPP, replacing Carlis Richards, who will become full-time director of Madison County's Emergency Management Agency, responsible for Madison County emergency response functions as well as CSEPP.

According to Richards, Parrett has "hit the ground running" and has



Michael Bryant, left, was recently promoted to director of Madison County CSEPP. Stephanie Parrett has been named the new Madison County CSEPP public information officer.

already written and produced a television commercial that is currently running on five local cable channels. She has upgraded the CSEPP Web page and provided ideas for improved graphics in CSEPP information products.

Parrett says she is eager to communicate with Madison County residents to increase their awareness of the 13 emergency zones into which the county is divided. "There is much to do and I am very excited and challenged," she said.

She is working with the media campaign team to coordinate the emergency preparedness message in all the CSEPP counties. (See related article on this page.) She recently returned from Pine Bluff, Ark., where she observed an emergency exercise in preparation for the fall exercise in Madison County.

Parrett is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a major in public relations. During college she worked full time for Adelphia Cable Company as a customer service representative. She worked for nearly a year with the Kentucky Department of Tourism as an interim public information officer.

Contact the Madison County Emergency Operation Center at 859-624-4787 for inquiries regarding: CSEPP; emergency response zone information; questions on or requests for a tone alert radio; obtaining a Shelter in Place kit; special needs; or to arrange a presentation on CSEPP.

New Communications Campaign from CSEPP

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) has launched a new communications campaign with the goal of preparing residents to know what to do in the unlikely event a chemical accident occurs at Blue Grass Army Depot. The new communications campaign is aimed at audiences in the CSEPP counties, which are Madison, Estill, Clark, Powell, Garrard, Rockcastle, Jackson and Jessamine.

Specific strategies have been developed for each county. Some strategies are standard for all counties, but all have the common goal of creating greater community awareness, according to Stacy Floden of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management.

Residents in the CSEPP counties will begin to see and hear messages specifically targeted for each county. The media mix will include radio, television, newspaper, printed materials and electronic communications.

The job of CSEPP in Kentucky is to enhance the emergency preparedness of the state, affected counties and cities. To accomplish its mission, CSEPP focuses its resources on equipment, personnel, training and public awareness.

CSEPP was established to help communities surrounding the nation's chemical stockpile sites prepare for the unlikely event of a stockpile-related accident, but the results, according to Floden, have been to better prepare these communities for all emergencies and natural disasters.

exchange

ВСАРР

Managers' Quarterly Update

By JIM FRITSCHE
Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Site Project Manager
and CHRIS MIDGETT
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Project Manager

As we write this column, events are rapidly evolving in the project. As many of you know, the president's budget was submitted to Congress on the first Monday in February, and project funding for fiscal year 2006, starting Oct. 1, was significantly reduced as compared to our existing fiscal year 2005 funds.

A review of the budget documents indicates that no military construction funds are being proposed and that the research, development, testing and evaluation funds being proposed are insufficient to allow the project to execute to our contract and plans. This is just the start of the federal budget process. While the budget process plays out in Congress, we are remaining on task and complying with our existing contractual requirements.

The intermediate design for the munitions demilitarization building, the heart and soul of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, was completed ahead of schedule. This represents approximately 60 percent of the design effort. The government and systems contractor team recently completed a very successful week of intermediate design review at the Parsons headquarters in Pasadena, Calif. More than 40 reviewers from the government team spent the week going through piping and instrumentation diagrams and looking at equipment requirements for the main processing systems.

Excellent interchange occurred between the design team and the reviewers and many comments will be incorporated into the design as we move forward. Reviewers represented diverse organizations such as: Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, Army Corps of Engineers, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Research Council, Mitretek Corporation and the Blue Grass Chemical Activity—to name a few. Agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and

the National Research
Council provide the
independent oversight that
ensures the project is being
conducted with maximum
safety and protection of
human health and the
environment. We partner
with independent organizations in ensuring the safety
of surrounding communities and recognizing their
concerns.

The project continues to work injury-free, with not even a first-aid event. We

are now in our 18th month and we have logged 644 safe work days. During the recent review of the design the emphasis on safety was very apparent.

On the regulatory side, the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection provided a preliminary draft of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Research, Development and Demonstration permit. The permitting for the facility continues ahead of schedule thanks to close coordination and collaboration among the government, contractors, regulators and citizens. This continuing cooperation will be extremely important as the project moves forward through this period of funding uncertainties and potential redesign considerations.

We hope these joint messages continue to provide useful information to you. Our commitment is to provide you current information through the use of regular open dialogues, community forums, and active participation in working groups as well as regular informational outreach initiatives. We encourage the entire community to be informed and involved by contacting our Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or outreach@bechtel.com.



Newcomers were special guests at the recent community leaders roundtable. The visitors talked informally, giving their views and asking questions of four senior managers of the Blue Grass Project. From left to right, Chris Midgett, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager, Sheila Pressley, a new faculty member with the Department of Environmental Health Science at Eastern Kentucky University, and Jim Rooney, civilian executive assistant at Blue Grass Chemical Activity, who represented Lt. Col. George Shuplinkov. Dashana Rowlette of Hometown Greetings is seated at right with back to camera.

Funding Released; Design to Continue

By JIM FRITSCHE BGCAPP Site Project Manager

We received notification March 23 that funding for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant has been released. This will allow the government and its contractor, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, to continue with design work currently under way.

Just to clarify for you, this funding is money that is already provided for tasks to be undertaken through September 30, 2005. Many of the news articles that you have been reading about reduction of project funding relate to provisions of the president's budget for fiscal year 2006. We are not likely to have any word on fiscal year 2006 funding until later this summer, closer to completion of the Congressional budget cycle.

Many of us on the Blue Grass Project, both government and contractor, have been examining redesign options for the destruction facility. These design considerations have the potential to reduce costs and make the facility more affordable. Both Chris Midgett and I will continue to keep you informed as information becomes available.

Project Examines Design Considerations to Lower Costs

Based on anticipated funding constraints, the Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives is working with Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass to study options that may reduce the cost of constructing and operating the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP).

The project has begun to implement redesign efforts in three areas:

- In the main munitions demilitarization building, where reduced processing rates may result in design changes.
- In post-treatment processing rates, seeking optimization.
- The use of forklifts to eliminate conveyors and overhead cranes in the container handling building.

The government and the systems contractor team will also investigate additional design alternatives that may reduce the overall life-cycle cost of the facility. The community, through the Kentucky Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB), will be involved in the decision-making process. The advisory board is an independent and non-partisan body set up

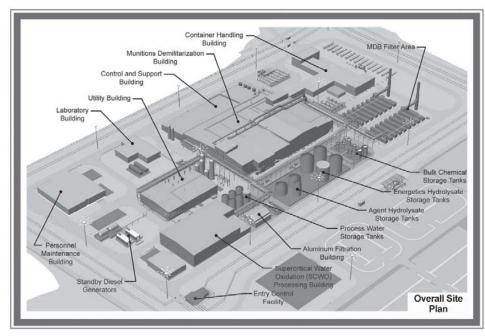
to represent the community and provide advice on major policy issues regarding all aspects of the chemical destruction plant.

The project has put together seven design consideration study teams to evaluate these additional potential design alternatives. The teams are looking at:

- Reviewing the new guidance on airborne exposure limits to evaluate the potential for eliminating the heated discharge conveyors.
- Reconfiguring the mustard projectiles by removing the energetics before treatment in the facility.
- Constructing some structures outside the chemical limited area fence line instead of inside the restricted area as currently planned.
- Shipping chemical agent hydrolysate and energetics hydrolysate out of state to a permitted treatment and disposal facility.
- Shipping secondary wastes out of state to facilities that are permitted to handle hazardous wastes.
- Processing rocket warheads in the energetics batch hydrolyzers, and processing rocket motors in another facility, on or off the depot.
- Re-evaluating closure needs, laws and requirements.

In addition, the project will:

 Continue with the supercritical water oxidation processing building intermediate design as originally planned. This design is due to the government Aug. 31.



When the design consideration studies are complete, the present configuration of this site plan is likely to reflect changes that will reduce the cost of constructing and operating the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant without compromising safety.

 Delay other support facility intermediate designs until the munitions demilitarization building redesign effort is further along.

This path forward is likely to be a significant rework effort, especially as it relates to the munitions demilitarization building and its intermediate design, which was submitted in February.

"The focus of our efforts as we go forward will be on maintaining safety and environmental protection while maximizing the cost effectiveness of the construction, systemization, pilot testing, operation and closure of the facility so as to minimize the life-cycle costs of the project," said Chris Midgett, project manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass. "Public participation will be a critical element of the decision-making process. We also will be working with other stakeholder groups such as regulators and elected officials."

Safety remains the top priority, Midgett said.

"As the Department of Defense and Congress work to find solutions to the project's funding issues, our government and contractor team will use its expertise to continue applying lessons learned along the way and responding to changing requirements," said Jim Fritsche, government site project manager for the pilot plant. "As we develop solutions to destroying these obsolete weapons, we will continue to be fully protective of human health and the environment."

Project News Briefs

Richmond Chamber of Commerce **Recognizes Bechtel Parsons**

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass was honored with a Community Service Award at the annual Richmond Chamber of Commerce awards banquet. According to the chamber citation, Bechtel Parsons was recognized for time and effort devoted to community service that had a positive impact on the community.

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Project Manager Chris Midgett said, "This award recognizes the support our team provided for the community over the last year and demonstrates how we have fully integrated into the Blue Grass community."

Bechtel Parsons was a major contributor to the United Way of the Blue Grass in Madison County and supported education through teacher grants, student scholarships and contributions for school supplies.

Employees serve on several local boards and committees including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, Altrusa Club, Pops in the Park and the Pattie A. Clay Auxiliary Charity Ball. Employees share the spirit of giving during the holidays by participating in the "Toys for Kids" drive conducted by the Richmond Fire Department.



Dr. Dave Smith, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass chief scientist, right, introduces middle school students to the concept of chromatography. Smith spoke with students about careers in science at the recent Madison County Business to Education Partnership 8th Grade Career Day. Smith explained how chromatography will be used to verify the destruction of chemical agents at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.



Worley Johnson Jr. reflects on his 12 years of service on the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC). Johnson was recognized by the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program (ACWA) at the fifth quarterly meeting of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board for his exceptional support of the program. A plaque was presented by Jim Richmond, ACWA Risk Management

Johnson served as co-chair of the CAC from 1992 through 2004. He also participated in the ACWA National Dialogue process, which provided public involvement in the selection of an alternative technology to destroy the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile. Johnson is associate professor of Environmental Health Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University.

Have You Ever Heard the Term HAZOP?

Nevin Thomas, safety manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, explains that "Hazard and Operability" (HAZOP) is a system safety approach utilized along with other techniques in analysis of the system design. Expert teams conduct the HAZOP analysis to identify hazards in the design and make design changes to eliminate or mitigate the hazards.

"Safety is an inherent value of the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team, and the value of safety will not change as we move forward. Regardless of the many issues with funding, our team will continue taking the measures required to ensure the safety of the community and employees," Thomas said.

Advisory Board Hears Design and Funding Updates at Quarterly Meeting

Some 85 persons were present at the recent quarterly meeting of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) to hear updates on design and budget status for the Blue Grass Project and to take the opportunity to state their views and ask questions.

CDCAB Co-Chair Kent Clark, Madison County Judge-Executive, said that the community and its leaders have come together as a team in the face of possible budget cuts and delays. He said he feels comfortable that things will work out because everyone is working together. Co-Chair Craig Williams, executive director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, said that he is in agreement with Judge Clark's assessment.

Jim Fritsche, Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site project manager, gave an overview of the eight sites in the chemical demilitarization program. He said that four sites are operational, and there is a cost to operate them whether they are disposing of weapons or on ready status. Two more sites, Pine Bluff and Newport, are coming on-line this year. That makes resources tight for the last two demilitarization sites, which are Blue Grass and Pueblo, he said.

Slowing down these last two projects is cheaper than going full speed ahead. But slowing down will affect the schedule, he said. "If we change the priority on Blue Grass from getting it done quickly to simply getting it done, it gives us some cost savings priorities," he said.

Chris Midgett, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) project manager, spoke first of the systems contractor's outstanding safety record. There have been zero accidents since the contract award, and at the time of the CDCAB meeting, BPBG had logged 600,000 hours without even a first aid case. "We are very proud," Midgett said. "We plan to keep this safety record as the project moves forward."

Midgett summarized the design progress and showed an automated slide demonstrating the unique design of the munitions demilitarization building, which has been described as the heart of the demilitarization facility.

Bill Pehlivanian, deputy program manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), gave an overview of budget matters for the ACWA program and the Blue Grass Project. Pehlivanian said that the Defense Acquisition Board met in November 2004 to review the chemical demilitarization funding options and issue a path forward. Next, the Department of Defense issued a decision in December 2004 that gave priority to funding for the operating and constructed sites over the ACWA sites, which are still in the design phase. That direction is reflected in the president's budget for fiscal year 2006, which eliminated funds for Blue Grass and Pueblo.

After the hour-long session set aside for key updates, questions and comments, the CDCAB voting members and other stakeholders met in a caucus session not attended by government and contractor staff.

The CDCAB meeting notes can be accessed on the Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Web page at www.pmacwa.army.mil. Copies can be requested by calling the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or by e-mail at outreach@bechtel.com.

List of CDCAB Members

Voting Members:

Kent Clark, Madison County Judge-Executive, CDCAB co-chair

Craig Williams, Chemical Weapons Working Group, CDCAB co-chair

Dr. Robert Bagby, Richmond civic representative

Rev. Robert Blythe, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also City Commissioner, Richmond

Dr. Byron Bond, Eastern Kentucky University

Commissioner Mike Brewer, city of Richmond

Mike Caudill, Madison County schools

Gary Conkin, Berea Community School

Jill Cornelison, Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical Center

Jeanne Hibberd, Berea civic representative

Dr. Douglas Hindman, Kentucky Chemical

Calendar of Meetings

- April 20. 1–4 p.m. An ad hoc design consideration working group of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) will meet at the Bechtel Parsons office at 301 Highland Park Drive, Richmond, Ky. Madison County Judge-Executive Kent Clark is chair of the ad hoc working group. All CDCAB members are invited, and those who plan to attend should call the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 for more information and to obtain a meeting package.
- May 24. 1–4:30 p.m. The CDCAB will hold its sixth quarterly meeting at the Perkins Building, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Ky. The public is invited. The agenda will include recommendations by the ad hoc committee on the design consideration studies. There will also be opportunities for board and stakeholder comments and questions.

For more information on either meeting, contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or by e-mail at outreach@bechtel.com.

Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC); also CAC chair

Mary Kemper, Berea Hospital

Diane Kerby, Berea College

Dr. Robert Miller, CAC

State Rep. Harry Moberly Jr.

Paul Reynolds, Berea Chamber of Commerce

Carlis Richards, Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Rob Rumpke, Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Rev. Tiger Pennington, Richmond Ministerial Association

State Senator Ed Worley

Councilman George Wyatt, city of Berea

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Citizen Exchange

Citizen Exchange focuses on questions frequently asked by members of the community. If you have a question you would like to have answered in this section, please send it to Editor, Blue Grass Exchange, ATTN: Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, 301 Highland Park Drive, Richmond, KY 40475. You may also send questions via e-mail to outreach@bechtel.com. We hope you find this section informative and useful in understanding the efforts to safely destroy the chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

I understand that the Army and Department of Defense are looking at different alternatives to meet the requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty. Can you provide more information?

The Army Chemical Materials Agency announced recently that it has received official direction from the Department of Defense to consider and evaluate alternatives to achieve the April 2012 extended deadline for the 100 percent destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile as required by the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty. These alternatives include the possible relocation of some of the chemical weapons stockpiles located at various storage sites across the United States.

What kinds of alternatives are being evaluated?

The Chemical Materials Agency is looking at a wide variety of possibilities. Currently, the assessment is broken down into three major categories. These are:

- 1. Improving utilization of existing chemical weapons resources, which could include:
- relocating selected stockpile(s),
- · redistributing munitions among sites,
- relocating existing demilitarization equipment, personnel and processes and
- replicating proven designs and processes at other sites, such as accelerated neutralization and selective use of the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program's Explosive Destruction System.
- 2. Revised technical approaches, which could include:
- reconfiguring munitions (removing explosives),
- · revising secondary treatment processes,
- revising destruction approaches, such as co-processing of munitions and

- selectively using enhanced non-stockpile systems.
- 3. Updating and streamlining policies and procedures, which could include:
- working with state regulatory agencies to enhance and improve facility operating parameters while ensuring protection of the health and safety of the worker, the community and the environment and
- working with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to interpret provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty to more accurately and precisely define the actual point of chemical agent destruction.

What do the terms reconfiguration, nonstockpile applications, and co-processing mean?

Reconfiguration of the stockpile means removing explosive components from some of the weapons before they are processed in the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. This would include the mustardfilled projectiles stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot. This helps expedite access to the chemical agent during disposal and has been done safely at other chemical weapons storage sites. Non-stockpile applications could include utilizing mobile technology to destroy stockpile materiel. Mobile technology is currently used to dispose of recovered chemical materiel not currently included as part of the declared stockpile. Co-processing is processing multiple munition types that contain the same chemical agent. An example would include processing sarin-filled rockets and sarin-filled projectiles containers at the same time, thereby the term "co-processing."

When will the final decisions be made on the funding of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant?

The president's budget was sent to Congress Feb. 7. After receiving the budget, Congress

will examine it in detail. Several committees and subcommittees will hold hearings on proposals under their jurisdiction. The president, budget director, the Cabinet and others work with Congress to accept, reject or change proposals. When agreement is reached, Congress will appropriate the funds and then authorize the expenses. The time frame for this process depends largely on how quickly differences are resolved, but could extend up until Oct. 1, when the fiscal year begins.

List of CDCAB Members

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Non-Voting Members

Kevin Atkins, U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell's office

Maxwell C. (Clay) Bailey, Kentucky Division of Emergency Management

Jim Fritsche, Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site project manager

Kimberly Irwin, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass

Col. Martin Jacoby, Blue Grass Army Depot

Geoff Reed, U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler's office

Lt. Col. George Shuplinkov, Blue Grass Chemical Activity

Tim Thomas, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection

Key to Photo Identification from Front Cover

Background photo, left to right: Dr. Robert Miller, Dr. Douglas Hindman, Craig Williams and Kent Clark. Inset photo, top left: John Jump, left, and Tim Thomas, seated. Inset photo, center left: Elizabeth Crowe. Inset photo, center right: from left to right, Dr. Byron Bond, Rob Rumpke, Kevin Atkins, Tim Thomas and Kim Irwin sitting next to Jim Fritsche and Col. Martin Jacoby. Bottom left photo: the audience, showing Toivo and Mae Puro in foreground.

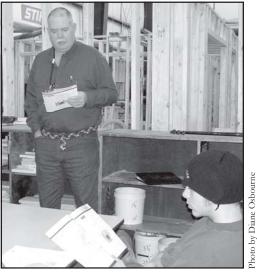


Speakers Available On Request

If your group or organization would like the most up-to-date information on the chemical weapons destruction process, please contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or e-mail outreach@bechtel.com. Speakers are available from the Blue Grass Army Depot, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives or any of the teaming partners of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass.

Blue Grass Project speakers have presented information to college and high school classes, civic and service organizations, and local special interest organizations. Recent presentations were made to the Madison County Cattlemen's Association, local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, Kentuckiana Industrial Hygiene Association, Madison County Area Technology Education Center and Model Laboratory School.

Educators are encouraged to take advantage of the project's environmental, engineering and technical staff, whose expertise can enhance classroom learning with real-life applications of math, science and technology.



Otis Drinkard, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project superintendent, walks students through the overall site plan for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. The students are enrolled in carpentry and electricity courses at the Madison County Area Technology Center.

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office 301 Highland Park Drive Richmond, KY 40475

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-